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ABSTRACT

According to the 1970 census, New York State has the tenth largest Indian population in the United States; 1978 tribal enrollment was 12,500--up about 25% over 1970. The nine Indian reservations are owned and occupied by Iroquois, Poospatuck, and Shinnecock Indians, all of whom are indigenous to New York State. Enrollment in the Iroquois Confederacy, which includes five nations--the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas, and Senecas--is determined by lineage. The Cayuga Indians do not have their own reservation, having sold their lands to the State. The total American Indian population, as defined by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, consists of individuals enrolled in a tribe and other persons of at least one-fourth Indian blood. New York State's Indian population includes persons descended from tribes located outside the State. Because tribal lands are tax exempt, Indian nations and tribes enter into contracts with neighboring school districts for the education of their children. Although most Indian children (about 80%) are educated in public schools, three reservation schools, on the Onondaga, St. Regis and Tuscarora Reservations, are operated by local school districts under contract with the State Education Department. The Bureau of Indian Affairs coordinates all State services and provides information and referral services to Indians. Following the narrative section, charts highlight pertinent information. (CM)

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AMERICAN INDIANS IN NEW YORK STATE

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Introduction

According to the 1970 census New York State has the tenth largest Indian population in the United States. In that year, there were 28,000 American Indians in the State; and of these, approximately 10,000 were enrolled in a New York State tribe. In 1978 the tribal enrollment was 12,500 — up about 25% over 1970.

Indian Nations and Tribes

There are nine Indian reservations in New York State. These reservations are owned and occupied by Iroquois, Poospatuck and Shinnecock Indians.

The Iroquois Confederacy was originally composed of five nations — the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas and Senecas; these five nations are indigenous to New York State. Their confederacy was formed hundreds of years before the American Revolution, and its governmental structure was a pattern for the U. S. Constitution. The Tuscarora Indians were admitted to the confederacy in 1722 after having been driven out of North Carolina by white settlers and neighboring Indians.

The Poospatucks and Shinnecocks are two small tribes of Algonquian stock. These two tribes are also indigenous to New York State, and they live in Suffolk County on lands that were originally granted to them by the Colonial Government.

The Cayuga Indians are unique in that they do not have their own reservation in New York State, having sold their lands to the State of New York. They now live throughout New York State, and some have intermarried and live on other reservations. In addition, branches of the Cayugas, as well as branches of the Oneidas and Senecas, live in other states.

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The Seneca Indians are divided into two groups. The main group of Senecas, the Seneca Nation, has always lived in New York and owns the Cattaraugus, Allegany and Oil Spring Reservations. The other group of Senecas lived in Kansas for a time, then sold their land there and purchased the Tonawanda Reservation; they are called the Tonawanda Band of Senecas. The total membership of the two groups of Senecas is larger than that of all of the other Indian nations and tribes of New York State combined.

The Mohawk Nation is now predominantly located in Canada, but in 1888 the St. Regis Tribe of Mohawks was granted the St. Regis Reservation along the St. Lawrence River. This reservation lies within the borders of both Canada and New York State, with one-third of its area within the territory of New York.

Tribal Enrollment and the Indian Population

There are three interrelated but distinct types of numbers covered by the first three tables of this report. They are:

* Tribal enrollment
* Total American Indian population
* Total population of a reservation

When an individual is enrolled in a tribe, he or she has rights to own reservation land, participate in tribal affairs and share in tribal annuities. Enrollment in the Iroquois Confederacy is determined by lineage. All of the Iroquois nations except the St. Regis Mohawks are matrilineal (i.e., if a person's mother was a tribal member, then that person is also a tribal member). The St. Regis Mohawks are patrilineal. Persons with a Mohawk mother and with a father from another Iroquois nation are known as "non-treaty Indians" and do not hold membership in either nation.

The total American Indian population is defined by the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs as consisting of those individuals enrolled in a tribe and all other persons of at least one-fourth Indian blood. In New York State this population includes persons descended from tribes located outside of this State.

The total population of a reservation includes all of the individuals living on a reservation, whether Indian or non-Indian. Enrolled tribal members living off of the reservation are not included in the population of their tribe's reservation.

Education

Tribal lands are tax exempt. Therefore, the Indian nations and tribes enter into contracts with neighboring school districts for the eduation of their children. In the 1976-77 school year, about 80% (2,204) of the Indian students received their instruction in this manner.

Most of the remaining Indian students are taught in the three reservation schools. These schools are located on the Onondaga, St. Regis and Tuscarora Reservations and are operated by local school districts under contract with the State Education Department.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

The Department of Social Services has primary responsibility for the coordination of State services to the Indian people. This is handled through the Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs, which is currently staffed by a representative from the Commissioner's office and by a Specialist in Indian Affairs.

In addition to coordinating all State services, the Bureau of Indian Affairs also provides information and referral services to the Indian people.

INDIAN NATIONS/TRIBES OF NEW YORK

Nation	Enrolled Membership March 1978	Annuity Payments by New York State	Reservations/ Tribal Lands	Location	Acreage
St. Regis Mohawk	2,444	$2,132	St. Regis	Franklin County on Rt. 37 between Massena and Malone	14,640 acres
Oneida	524		Oneida lands	Oneida County	35 acres
Onondaga	1,430	$2,430	Onondaga	Onondaga County 6 miles south of Syracuse on Route 11A	7,300 acres
Cayuga	377	$23,114.05			
Seneca Nation	5,340	$500	Cattaraugus	Partly in Cattaraugus, Chautauqua and Erie counties Northwest of Gowanda (Rt.62) and south of Irving (Rt.5)	21,680 acres
			Allegany	Cattaraugus County along Allegany River	22,000 acres
			Oil Spring 1/	Allegany County at Cuba Lake	640 acres
Tonawanda Band of Senecas	983		Tonawanda	Partly in Erie, Genesee and Niagara counties on Route 267 near Batavia	7,549 acres
Tuscarora	N/A		Tuscarora	Niagara County 9 miles northeast of Niagara Falls	5,700 acres
Poospatuck	368		Poospatuck	Near Mastic in Suffolk County	60 acres
Shinnecock	303		Shinnecock	Near Southampton Suffolk County	400 acres

1/ Not inhabited

N/A-Not Available

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TOTAL INDIAN POPULATION
NEW YORK STATE AND UNITED STATES
FOR CENSUS YEARS DURING 1900 - 1970

Census Year	New York State		United States	
	Population	Percent change from previous census	Population	Percent change from previous census
1970	28,355	71.9%	792,730	51.4%
1960	16,491	55.0	532,591	46.5
1950	10,640	23.0	357,499	3.5
1940	8,651	24.1	345,252	0.6
1930	6,973	26.7	343,352	40.5
1920	5,503	- 9.0	244,437	- 11.7
1910	6,046	15.0	276,927	16.8
1900	5,257	—	237,196	—

Populations of Indian Reservations
In New York State
March 1978

Reservation	Total Population	Enrolled Members	Not Enrolled*
Allegany	1,014	914	100
Cattaraugus	2,374	2,174	200
Oneida Lands	40	25	15
Onondaga	785	732	53
St. Regis	NA	2,022	NA
Tonawanda	521	500	21
Tuscarora	1,134**	785**	349**
Poospatuck	106	88	18
Shinnecock	339	303	36

NA—Not Available
* Includes other Indians as well as non-Indians
** 1970 Census figure—current figure not available

INDIAN CHILDREN

IN

CONTRACT AND RESERVATION SCHOOLS

1976-1977

Reservation	School District	Pre-kindergarten to 12 Number of Pupils	
Allegany	Salamanca Central		321
Cattaraugus	Gowanda Central		
	Silver Creek Central		639
Oneida	Stockbridge Valley		
	Oneida		53
Onondaga	LaFayette Central		
	Onondaga Central		
	Onondaga Reservation School	(165)	328*
Poospatuck	Center Moriches		37
St. Regis	Massena		
	Salmon River		
	St. Regis Reservation School	(243)	774*
Shinnecock	Southampton		79
Tonawanda	Akron		182
Tuscarora	Niagara Wheatfield		
	Tuscarora Reservation School	(128)	327*
	T O T A L	(536)	2,740*

The figures in parentheses represent the number of Indians in a particular reservation school.

*Student count for reservation and contract schools.
Source: New York State Education Department

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